

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A method to authenticate a user accessing a service, said method  
5 comprising:  
activating a first communication device, to communicate with said  
service;  
storing an identifier in a second communications device, wherein said  
second communications device has a wireless signal strength for transmitting  
10 said identifier; and  
accessing said service by said first communication device, only so long as  
said first communication device remains within range of said second  
communications device.
- 15 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first communication  
device requires a device identifier from said second communications device.
- 20 3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said first communication  
device requires a location proximal to said second communications device in  
order to receive said device identifier.
- 25 4. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said first communication  
device can store only one said device identifier at a time.
5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said second  
communications device has a reduced said wireless signal strength.
6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said second communications  
device provides a user identification to said first communication device.
- 30 7. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein said second communications  
device provides said user identification to said first communication device only  
upon initial access to said service by said first communication device.
- 35 8. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein said second communications  
device provides said user identification to said first communication device  
intermittently upon access to said service by said first communication device.

9. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein said second communications device provides said user identification to said first communication device constantly upon access to said service by said first communication device.

5           10. A user authentication system comprising:  
a first communication device;  
a second communications device having a signal strength for wirelessly  
transmitting an identifier stored within said second communications device; and  
10           a service which performs functions according to the user, wherein said  
service only performs said functions so long as said first communication device  
remains within range of said signal strength of said second communications  
device.

15           11. The system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said first communication  
device requires a device identifier from said second communications device.

20           12. The system as recited in Claim 11, wherein said first communication  
device requires a location proximal to said second communications device in  
order to receive said device identifier.

25           13. The system as recited in Claim 11, wherein said first communication  
device can store only one said device identifier at a time.

30           14. The system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said second  
communications device has a reduced said wireless signal strength.

35           15. The system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said second  
communications device can be worn.

40           16. The system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said second  
communications device can be carried in a wallet.

45           17. The system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said second  
communications device has a reduced said wireless signal strength.

50           18. The system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said second  
communications device provides a user identification to said first  
communication device.

19. The system as recited in Claim 18, wherein said second communications device provides said user identification to said first communication device only upon initial access to said service by said first communication device.

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20. The system as recited in Claim 18, wherein said second communications device provides said user identification to said first communication device intermittently upon access to said service by said first communication device.

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21. The system as recited in Claim 18, wherein said second communications device provides said user identification to said first communication device constantly upon access to said service by said first communication device.